

OCT 14 1955

STAT

Approved For Release 2003/12/02 : CIA-RDP70-00058R000100020054-9

Russ Peddle Old Arms In Deals

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WASHINGTON — Communist sale of arms to countries in the Middle East — and possibly in Latin America — has been expected by top authorities here for some time.

No less a person than Allen W. Dulles, director of the hush-hush Central Intelligence Agency, publicly predicted that the Soviet bloc might unload obsolete war equipment as a way to stir up trouble.

Dulles, in a speech before an international group of police chiefs in Philadelphia last Oct. 3, called this Red program "the Kremlin's new Trojan horse."

THE CIA CHIEF, brother of the Secretary of State, emphasized that Russia came out of World War II with "a substantial stockpile of obsolescent and now fairly obsolete military equipment."

Many thousands of medium and heavy tanks were among this hoard, he said.

Immediately after the war, he went on, Russia developed new tanks and aircraft, including the MIG-15, the TU-4 (B-28 type) long-range piston bomber, and the IL-28 light jet bomber.

Many of these have since become obsolete or surplus, he added. He estimated the reserve of available MIG-15s at "four to six thousand."

ALTHOUGH a "good share" of this equipment went to China and Indochina, he said, "there remains ample for other parts of the world."

He said he would not be surprised "if we soon heard that countries in this hemisphere were being approached."

Dulles recalled that more than a year ago a shipment of obsolete arms from Czechoslovakia went to Guatemala. That shipment helped precipitate the Guatemalan revolution overthrowing a Red-slanted regime.

INFORMANTS here say that the Russians lose nothing in peddling obsolescent planes. If scrapped, they would produce hardly anything because of the complex alloys that go into them.

There is no evidence that Latin-American countries are buying such arms, or are engaged in negotiations for any.

But it is expected that several of the countries below the border might be interested in acquiring some of the equipment if it comes as cheaply as believed here.

BECAUSE of the Dulles warning, some thoughtful sources here feel that the United States may have overdramatized the Czechoslovakian deal with Egypt in order to spotlight this new Red technique for infiltration.